

I was thanking him for the thousand troops he had in Iraq. It's pretty remarkable, when you think about it, that the Japanese Self-Defense Forces were sent to Iraq to help secure liberty for a new democracy. We talked about how to help people in Afghanistan. We talked about HIV/AIDS on the continent of Africa. We're talking about how to make the world a better place, yet 60 years ago we were at war.

You've got to ask yourself what happened. How can that possibly be? Is it just circumstance? My answer is, no. One of my predecessors, Harry S. Truman, believed in the power of liberty to transform an enemy to an ally, and so he worked to see to it that the Japanese were able to adopt a Japanese-style democracy.

Liberty has got the capacity to change the world. We shouldn't be surprised when 12 million people vote in Iraq because I believe—and I hope you do too—that the concept of liberty is universal; that it's not just a concept for Americans or Methodists, it's a concept that rests in the soul of every-

body. That's what we believe in America. That's the basis of our founding.

And so the idea of our enemy becoming a friend shouldn't be a surprise. The lessons of World War II and the aftermath should be lessons applied today in helping us chart our path to victory in the war against these terrorists. Someday, an elected leader of Iraq, a free Iraq in the heart of the Middle East, will be sitting down with an American President talking about keeping the peace. And generations of children will be better off for it.

Thanks for helping Judy Baar. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:27 p.m. at the Drake Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Andy McKenna, chairman, Illinois Republican Party; Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, IL; former President Saddam Hussein and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea.

Remarks at Cabot Microelectronics Corporation in Aurora, Illinois

July 7, 2006

The President. Listen, thank you. Thanks for the tour. The Speaker and I really enjoyed coming. Bill, appreciate you.

William P. Noglow. It's an honor.

The President. It is an honor to be here.

This is an innovative company that is a sign of the times that are coming. This is a company that strives upon our country's greatest asset, which happens to be the brainpower of our citizens. And what's amazing as you walk through the labs and meet the people working here, you say, "What's your degree in?" Let me just say, there wasn't a lot of history majors: physicists, chemists, Ph.D.s, people with advanced degrees. It is clear that in order

for this country of ours to be competitive in the future, we've got to understand the nature of the jobs of the future, and these jobs are going to require people who have got math and science skills.

And so one way to make sure this country is competitive is to enhance math and science in early grades and encourage people to take math and science in the later years. And there's all kinds of ways to do that. One is to encourage Advanced Placement programs in our Nation's schools and help train 30,000 teachers in Advanced Placement. Another is to get people from institutions like this to go into our middle schools and high schools and say, "It's okay

to be a scientist,” you know, “Math and science will be important for your future.” In other words, try to inspire people. We call that an adjunct professor program.

We’ve got a role at the Federal Government to make sure that we’re research-oriented in a technology-driven economy, and that is to spend your money on basic research, so that, for example, nanotechnology is a really important part of the economy—an important growing part of the economy. And I believe and the Speaker believes—as a matter of fact, the House of Representatives believes that it makes sense to double the basic research budget of our Federal Government to help companies like this stay on the leading edge of change.

And so we’re here because we want our fellow citizens to understand that we’ve got some really innovative people here in our country, and that in order for us to be competitive in the future, we’ve got to emphasize math and science and research and technology.

And so I want to congratulate you for running a good company.

Mr. Noglows. Thank you.

The President. I want to thank the people who work here for making you look good. And I thank—I want to thank the Speaker for getting a bill out of the House that funds the American Competitiveness Initiative that I sent up to Congress. The Speaker did good work on that. I call upon the Senate to get it done. This will be a commitment to our Nation’s future, so that people won’t have to fear the future because we intend to shape the future.

Anyway, thanks for letting us come by. Proud to be here. You’re a great company. Thanks for the good work you do. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to William P. Noglows, chairman and chief executive officer, Cabot Microelectronics Corp.

The President’s Radio Address *July 8, 2006*

Good morning. This week, I visited the city of Chicago. In that great city and across America, our strong and growing economy is creating jobs and delivering prosperity to more of our people.

In the Chicago area, businesses have added more than 74,000 new jobs over the past 2 years. And in Illinois, the unemployment rate has fallen to 4.6 percent, the lowest rate there in over 5½ years.

We have good news about our national economy as well. On Friday, we learned that the American economy created 121,000 new jobs in June, and it has created over 5.4 million jobs since August 2003. We now have added jobs for 34

straight months, and the unemployment rate is 4.6 percent.

In the first quarter of 2006, our economy grew at an impressive annual rate of 5.6 percent. This follows our economic growth of 3.5 percent in 2005, the fastest rate of any major industrialized nation. And because taxes are low, our workers are keeping more of the money they earn.

Behind each of these positive statistics are countless stories, stories of workers who start each day with hope because they have a job that will help them build a better life, stories of families with more money in the bank for college tuition or a down-payment on a home, stories of small-business owners who know they can